

Pick-Pocketed By Your Past

"Identity Theft: Recovering Who You Are", Part 6
Pastor Vince DiPaola

I) POPULAR PICK-POCKETS FROM THE PAST

Thief #1) FAMILY FEUD frustration.

"Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4, NIV)

Thief #2) CARELESS CHOICE carnage.

"But if you fail to do this, you will be sinning against the Lord; and you may be sure that your sin will find you out." (Numbers 32:23, NIV)

Thief #3) TERRIBLE TRAGEDY trauma.

"How long must I wrestle with my thoughts and every day have sorrow in my heart?" (Psalm 13:2a, NIV)

Thief #4) SPIRITUAL STAGNANCY struggles.

"...how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing. Look, your house is left to you desolate." (Matthew 23:37b-38, NIV)

II) PROTECTING YOUR FUTURE FROM THE PAST

"No, dear friends, I am still not all I should be, but I am focusing all my energies on this one thing: forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead. I strain to reach the end of the race and receive the prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us up to heaven." (Philippians 3:13-14, NLT)

Forgetting The Past And Focusing On The Future

1) For everything that God says is wrong, REPENT of it.
(*guilt vs. grace*)

"Have mercy on me, O God...For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight...Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me." (Psalm 51:1,3-4,10, NIV)

2) To every voice that says you're ruined, REBUKE it.
(*condemnation vs. conviction*)

"Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." (Romans 8:1, NIV)

"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past." (Isaiah 43:18, NIV)

3) With every new opportunity for godliness, RECOGNIZE it.
(*old you vs. new you*)

"...the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me." (Galatians 2:20b, NASB)

4) For every promise of total forgiveness in Christ, RECEIVE it.
(*confusion vs. cleansing*)

"Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me and I will be whiter than snow." (Psalm 51:7, NIV)

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9, NIV)

"Christ died for our sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God." (1 Peter 3:18a, NIV)

*In the righteousness of Christ, I am: Loved by God

Accepted by God

Forgiven by God

Cleansed by Christ

Adopted by the Father

Guided by the Holy Spirit

Lakeshore Notes

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